



SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH

GENERAL PLAN

Newsletter #3

NOW AVAILABLE: PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH!

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce the release of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Sonoma Coast State Beach. This milestone is the result of a combined effort of the public and the Department in a planning process that has been underway since 2002.

The Preliminary General Plan presents the proposed long-term management direction for Sonoma Coast State Beach. Inside this newsletter you will find the draft Vision Statement of the Preliminary General Plan, which would be achieved through a comprehensive and cohesive set of park-wide and zone-specific goals and guidelines.

Identified in the Preliminary General Plan are allowable management activities, facility improvements and developments that are consistent with these goals and guidelines. These recommendations will help provide high-quality recreational experiences for visitors, while protecting and restoring natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources. This will enhance Sonoma Coast State Beach as a unique destination.

Several Management Zones and Overlay Zones are identified in the Preliminary General Plan along with detailed guidelines tailored to the environmental characteristics of each zone. The Plan also includes six Potential Development Areas within which future facilities may be sited.

We encourage you to review the document and submit your comments. The public comment period ends on February 20, 2004. So please submit comments by then. Thank you!

WHAT IS AN EIR?

An Environmental Impact Report is an informational document prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, also known as CEQA. An EIR provides detailed information about the effect that a proposed project is likely to have on the environment. It lists ways through which significant effects might be minimized and provides alternatives to the proposed project.



Sonoma Coast Wetland

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Please review the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report at one of the following locations:

1. California State Parks, North Bay District
Russian River Sector Office
25381 Steelhead Boulevard
Duncan Mills, CA 95430
2. California State Parks, Sonoma Coast State Beach
Salmon Creek Park Office
3095 Coast Highway 1
Bodega Bay, CA 94923
3. California State Parks, Armstrong Redwoods State Preserve Office
17000 Armstrong Redwoods Road
Guerneville, CA 95446
4. Sonoma County Library, Central Branch
799 Third Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
5. Sonoma County Library, Guerneville Regional Library
14107 Armstrong Woods Road
Guerneville, CA 95446
6. Sonoma County Library, Sebastopol Regional Library
7140 Bodega Avenue
Sebastopol, CA 95472

The report is also on our website! See inside for details.

Sonoma Coast State Beach

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

The Vision Statement provides a guiding image of what Sonoma Coast South Beach should be like following the implementation of the General Plan. The draft Vision Statement, as formulated during the planning process, is as follows:

Sonoma Coast State Beach will be protected and enhanced as a natural coastal open space of spectacular beauty. Sonoma Coast State Beach will offer visitors access to open expansive views of the ocean, intermittent long sandy beaches below rugged headlands, a craggy coastline with natural arches and secluded coves, rugged sea stacks, lagoons and wetlands, coastal sand dunes, coastal plains, forested inland watershed areas, the rocky headland of Bodega Head, as well as the mouth of the Russian River.

Sonoma Coast State Beach will provide a diversity of world-class recreational and educational opportunities to millions of visitors from throughout California and elsewhere, while enhancing and maintaining the exceptional value of its outstanding scenic, cultural, biological, and geologic resources. Public access to the coast will be made available to all visitors.

Sonoma Coast State Beach will continue to be one of the most visited State Parks units by providing the public opportunities for sightseeing, hiking, biking, beachcombing, fishing, kayaking, boating, whale watching, camping, tidepooling, sunbathing, photographing, and a wide variety of other recreational activities along the scenic Sonoma Coastline and Russian River. The visitors' appreciation of the ocean, streams, beaches, sand



Review locations

REPORT AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

You may also download the document by visiting the State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov/generalplans to get updated information. On the General Plan website, click on "General Plans-In Progress", then click on "Sonoma Coast State Beach" or type in "www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=22591" directly.

Once your review of the document is complete, please submit a written comment within the 45-day public review period, ending on February 20, 2004, to:

**California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Services Center
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Alan Tang**



Discussing the general plan at the public meeting



Sonoma Coast State Beach

dunes, sea stacks, bluffs, wildlife, hills, coastal plains and other resources will be facilitated by well designed and maintained trails, campgrounds, and other facilities at Sonoma Coast State Beach.

Interpretation and education will be provided through one or more visitor centers, information kiosks, and other structures, supplemented by educational programs, in order to facilitate enjoyable, meaningful, and sustainable interactions between the visitors and the resources. Visitors will come away with a greater understanding and appreciation for the natural processes at Sonoma Coast State Beach, as well as its unique wildlife, cultural importance, and aesthetic qualities.

Sonoma Coast State Beach will provide protection and interpretation of its extraordinary prehistoric resources.



Open house

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

Since the fall of 2002, we have received public input through two public meetings, surveys, and newsletters. We have also compiled data on the existing conditions and issues of Sonoma Coast State Beach and surrounding region. Based on the information, we have prepared the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

We are now seeking your input on the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report. Please see page 1 of this newsletter for ways you can review and submit comments on this document.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Your comments on the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report will be reviewed by Department staff and incorporated into the Final General Plan and Environmental Impact Report. A timeline for the planning process is provided on the following page.



Sonoma Coast State Beach



California Department of Parks and Recreation
Russian River District
P.O. Box 123/25381 Steelhead Boulevard
Duncans Mills, CA 95430

SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH

Calendar of Events

GENERAL PLAN PROCESS AT A GLANCE

SPRING 2003

Public Workshop #1;
Identify issues and
concerns

AUGUST 2003

Public Workshop #2:
Develop alternatives

SUMMER/FALL 2003

Develop General Plan and
prepare EIR

WINTER 2003/2004

Public review of the
Preliminary General Plan
and draft EIR

FEBRUARY 2004

Please submit comments
on the Preliminary
General Plan and Draft
EIR by February 20, 2004

SUMMER 2004

Final General Plan and
EIR, Agency approval

If you have questions or comments about the General Plan process please contact us at:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
North Bay District
Russian River Sector
P.O. Box 123/25381 Steelhead Boulevard
Duncans Mills, CA 95430
707.865.2391

Contact Information

For general information about park use
(e.g. hours, activities), please call 707.875.3483

Visit Our Website
**[www.parks.ca.gov/
generalplans](http://www.parks.ca.gov/generalplans)**



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